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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

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of New Soviet Requirements for Relinquishing
Soviet Citizenship, Tsingtao

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SOURCES

1. While Secretary Ershov of the Tientsin Soviet consular staff was in Tsingtao in late May 1948 he requested the Chinese Foreign Affairs Bureau to reject applications of Soviet citizens seeking to relinquish Soviet passports. He stated that such applications should be submitted directly to the Soviet Consulate General in Tientsin. The Foreign Affairs Bureau has agreed to this procedure on the grounds that it is in accord with Nanking policy.

25X1X Comment. Information available indicates that neither the Ministry of Foreign Affairs nor the Ministry of Social Affairs is raising any objection to the discarding of Soviet passports and the assumption of emigre status. It is probable that the inauguration of such a policy in Tsingtao was brought about by an exchange of money between Ershov and the Foreign Affairs Bureau. Such a policy enforced in Tsingtao would be particularly advantageous to the Soviets, as numerous Shanghai Soviet citizens have been coming from Shanghai to Tsingtao to discard their Soviet passports where Chinese police "squeeze" in this matter has been very small. Tsingtao Soviet activists are alarmed at the increasing strength and prestige of the local Russian Emigres' Association. Moreover, the discharge of all Soviet citizens from employment with the U. S. forces and their replacement by White Russians has added substantially to Soviet resentment and uneasiness.)

2. Approximately seventy Soviet citizens and nationals of Soviet satellite countries have applied for assumption of emigre status during the last five weeks. Many have said they are afraid of forced repatriation to the USSR.

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